

**REMARKS**

**I. Introduction**

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Ferguson for the courtesies he extended during the interview on June 17, 2009. The parties discussed the pending claims and distinctions over the art cited, particularly the Goela patents and the differences between the resulting grain structures in the resulting Goela structure as compared to the claimed grain orientation.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-14 will remain pending in this application. New claims 31-33 have been added to more fully define the invention, support for which appears in the specification at pages 12-13. No new matter has been added. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

**II. 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-8, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,464,912 to Goela and U.S. Patent No. 6,939,821 to Goela (collectively “the Goela patents). The Examiner submits that the Goela patents teach every element of the rejected claims because it is inherent for the Goela structure to have grains substantially oriented in the planar direction. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

As discussed during the interview and as detailed in the attached Declaration, the Goela patents describe suspending ring-like substrates in a deposition box, injecting precursor gases, and forming silicon carbide deposits on both sides of the substrates. *See*

Goela '912 col. 4; col. 6. Separation of the substrates from the deposits results in the production of two silicon carbide rings, one of each side of the substrate. *See col. 6, lines 62-65.*

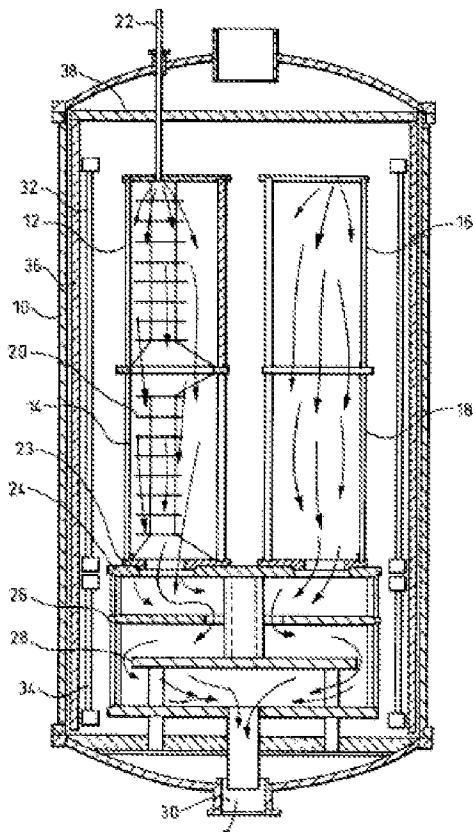
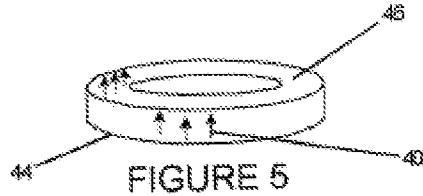


Fig.1.

It is not inherent that the structure of the grains will be oriented in the planar direction of the article. In fact, the exact contrary is true. The deposition of the material on top of the ring-like substrate results in the prior art structure shown in Figure 5 of the present application, reproduced below.



The grains are not substantially oriented in the planar or radial direction of the structure, they are oriented in the normal direction of the article. This is described in more detail in the attached declaration, which is incorporated herein by reference.

### **III. 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Each of the Examiner's additional remaining rejections rely on the Goela patents in combination with other references. Because of the above-discussed distinction, Applicants respectfully traverse each of the combination rejections and request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

### **IV. New claims 31-33**

New claims 31-33 have been added to this application, support for which appears in the specification at pages 12-13. They are provided in order to more fully define the invention and describe the specific embodiment in which the article is cut from a CVD-formed tube of material.

**CONCLUSION**

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims and issuance of a patent containing these claims in due course. If the Examiner believes there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, or if there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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